

**AFRI ELI
FY2016
Frequently Asked Questions**

- What is the NIFA Fellowships Program?
 - The NIFA Fellowships Program provides fellowships to outstanding pre- and postdoctoral students in the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences.
- What is the focus of the Program?
 - Prepare the next generation of scientists through fellowships, including doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.
 - Focuses on developing technical and functional competence for predoctoral students; and the research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students.
- What Project Types are available?
 - Research
 - Education
 - Extension
 - Integrated
 - Applicants must propose one of the AFRI project types specified within the relevant program area description beginning in Part I, C of the RFA. Only project types specifically solicited under each program area or program area priority described in Part I, C of the RFA will be considered for review. A detailed description of the project types available across AFRI is located at http://nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications/Project_Types_NIFA.pdf.
- What are the general components of the application?
 - Focused research, education, and/or extension objectives that are aligned with NIFA's Challenge and/or Foundational Program areas;
 - Well-developed academic experiences and global competencies;
 - Productive and interactive mentoring; and
 - Appropriate and applicable training activities.
- What are the Challenge Areas?
 - Agricultural and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change
 - Childhood Obesity Prevention
 - Food Safety
 - Food Security
 - Sustainable Bioenergy
 - Water Resources
- What are the Foundational Areas?
 - Plant health and production and plant products
 - Animal health and production and animal products

- Food safety, nutrition, and health
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
- Agriculture systems and technology
- Agriculture economics and rural communities
- Predoctoral Students
 - What are the eligibility requirements?
 - The individual must have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by **February 11, 2016 (as per CFR 3430.303)**, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor or the institution by the application deadline.
 - How much money is available and for how long?
 - Applications must not exceed \$95,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- Postdoctoral Students
 - What are the eligibility requirements?
 - **All doctoral degree requirements must be satisfied no earlier than January 1, 2013 and no later than November 11, 2016 (as per CFR 3430.303)**, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor/graduate committee or the institution by the application deadline.
 - How much money is available and for how long?
 - Applications must not exceed \$152,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- I am not sure if I am eligible?
 - It may be helpful to think of the following requirements.
 - Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a full-time basis (i.e. 100% effort).
 - Fellows must meet the stipulated dates for eligibility.
- Are indirect costs allowed?
 - No. Institutional allowance, in lieu of indirect costs, not to exceed \$3,000 per year, may be requested.
- Do I have to submit a Letter of Intent?
 - No. The AFRI ELI predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships program is not requesting letters of intent.
- When are the applications due?
 - February 11, 2016 (5:00 p.m. ET)
- How much time must I dedicate to the project?
 - At the time of the award, Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a fulltime basis (i.e. 100% effort), as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.

- If I receive an award, when can I expect to start?
 - The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law.
- Where can I obtain more information?
 - <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>